

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS29645 / H0699

This legislation amends Idaho Code 9-203 to add peer support specialists to the list of confidential relations and communications. First responders go through traumatic events in the course of their employment. These traumatic events can take a mental and emotional toll on the first responder. Many first responders prefer to speak with a peer about these emotional issues that may arise. Currently, the communication between a first responder and a peer support specialist is not a confidential communication. This bill would allow first responders the ability to speak to a peer support specialist in a private and confidential setting.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation will have no fiscal impact on the general fund or local governments, as most peer support specialists are already designated volunteer assignments. There is no requirement that departments provide peer support specialists. This legislation may save workers compensation claims for psychological injuries if a first responder is allowed to have confidential conversations with a peer support specialist before a psychological injury occurs.

Contact:

Representative Scott Syme
(208) 332-1000
Paul Jagosh
Idaho Fraternal Order of Police
(208) 850-8328

DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).